

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Final Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-24¹ under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,119,229 to Martinez et al. (hereinafter "Martinez") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,154,738 to Call (hereinafter "Call") and further in view of Prince, "Online Auctions at eBay" (c) 21 April 1999 (hereinafter "Prince").

In response, claims 2-9, 1-19, and 21-24 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof in the Final Official Action moot.

Furthermore, independent claims 1, 10, and 20 have been amended to emphasize their distinguishing features. Specifically, independent claims 1, 10, and 20 have been amended to clarify that the information offering system offers information of a medical instrument product to one or more users and that the summary information disclosing function discloses summary information of the medical instrument product via the internet where the user data required by the registration function is used for selection of a proper user in later activities for medical instrument sales.

The amendment to claims 1, 10, and 20 is fully supported throughout the original disclosure, particularly at page 1, lines 14-16, page 5, lines 1-5 and at page 8, lines 1-8 of the specification. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the original disclosure by way of the present amendment to claims 1, 10 and 20.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither the Martinez, Call or Prince references, disclose or suggest, an information offering system or method having the features discussed above and now recited in independent claims 1, 10, and 20. Therefore,

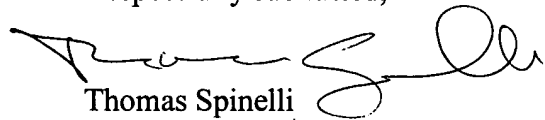
¹ Although the Official Action rejects claims 1-20, Applicants have proceeded as if claims 21-24 are also rejected due to the first paragraph at page 7 of the Final Official Action.

Applications respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 10, and 20, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited references and are allowable.

Furthermore, new claims 25-33 have been added to further define the patentable invention. New claims 25-33 are fully supported in the original disclosure. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the addition of new claims 25-33. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 25-33 are at least allowable as depending upon an allowable base claim (1, 10, and 20).

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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